

This is from Elizabeth Giles to her posterity

Written March 25, 1881

First Ward, Provo, Utah

To the posterity of John and Elizabeth Giles;
My dear children or grandchildren:

It is by request that I write you a short history of our lives. ELIZABETH GILES was born at Arnold Nottinghamshire, England, in the year of our Lord 1841 on the 10th day of September. Her fathers name was Thomas Giles. Her Mothers name was Maria Kirkham. I have three brothers and one sister, my brothers all embraced the gospel. My oldest brother Thomas died at Burlington, Iowa, My brother George is living in Heber City, Wasatch county. My brother William is living in the same place. Sister Sarah is in England, has not embraced the gospel. She married John Mitchel, had nine children and buried two.

I embraced the gospel when I was eleven years old in Nottingham, England. Was living out as a servant for about ten years.

I emigrated in 1862 in the ship of John J. Boyd. Crossed the plains in Captain Duncans Company by ox team, arrived at Heber City on September 21 and was married to John Giles of Provo City on the 1st day of November in 1862. (Our fathers were cousins so that accounted for our names being the same.) I have had eight children 6 boys and two girls. The oldest Elizabeth died at the age of 13 months and 13 days. she was born the 2nd of November, 1863. John Thomas was born June 1st 1865. George William was born December 6, 1866, and died at the age of 13 months and 7 days. Wilford Fredrick was born November 4, 1867. David Franklin was born October 15, 1870. Joseph Francis was born November 16, 1872. Sarah Maria born October 16, 1874, and Charles Edward was born December 20, 1876.

My husband John, has 4 brothers and 5 sisters. Eight of them embraced the gospel and are living in this territory all in full fellowship of the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The oldest is Thomas H. Giles, the next George, he married Mary Greenwood of May Lincolnshire. The next Elizabeth, she married Thomas Rasband. Ann died when she was seven years of age and John is next, then Mary, then Fredrick, then Emily, then Kezia, then William.

My sister heard the Gospel but did not receive it, for which I am very sorry.

When we received the gospel we were looked down upon as the lowest degraded people on earth. They, that were our best friends turned to be our enemies and persecuted us because we had joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints,

But I am thankful that I received the truth and that I know that this is the Gospel of Salvation and I desire that I may ever be faithful, that I may be worthy to come forth on the morning of the first resurrection and ever live with the first in the Kingdom of God where sickness, sorrow and death is not felt and feared any more.

My dear ones it is the prayer of my heart that we may ever keep the commandments that we have made for it is the only way to Eternal life.

My religion is Meat and Drink to me and I hope that my Posterity may honor God and keep His laws that we may stand upon Mt. Zion and rejoice forever more. I try to do my best with the rest of my sisters for the building up of the Kingdom of God. I pay my tithing and my temple offerings and I am a Relief Society teacher. I was married in the endowment house in Salt Lake City by George Q. Cannon. Was blessed by Patriarch John Smith in Provo. He blessed me and my posterity if we would be faithful in keeping the commandments of God, and I know the promise of the Lord through the servants is sure if we only serve God and keep His commandments.

The picture enclosed is my Mother. She died on the 1st day of March 1872, My Father is still living. He is 77 years old.

Whoever receives this letter please be kind enough to read it to the rest of the Giles family.

Elizabeth Giles
March 25, 1881

NOTE: Elizabeth Giles was a sister to George M. Giles who is the father of Sarah E. Giles Murdock

John Giles